

State of Connecticut
Department of Correction
Program Development

Alphabetical Listing of Programs for BERGIN CI

Addiction Services Tier 2 Intensive Outpatient Program

Description

The Tier 2 Program is an intensive outpatient Addiction Services program with 30 curriculum sessions for 10 weeks. Group components are held three times weekly and incorporate weekly fellowship meetings to lay the foundation of basic substance abuse information, promote personal identification with recovery, and motivate further treatment involvement.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Description

ABE is the primary program of instruction designed to provide training in basic academic skills in the areas of reading, mathematics, language arts, general science and social studies. The program is directed toward increasing proficiency to the eighth grade level.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Alcoholics Anonymous

Description

This is a 12-Step Fellowship self-help group for men and women who provide mutual support in obtaining and maintaining sobriety while also helping others to recover from alcoholism. Meetings, in a variety of formats (Big Book, Step Meetings, Speaker, etc.), are held on a weekly basis. Addiction Services staff coordinate the meetings and provide oversight for the program.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Anger Management

Description

This group program is designed to help inmates better manage their anger. It teaches inmates how to redirect their anger to a less aggressive and more controlled response.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Anger Management

Beyond Fear

Description

This is an AIDS education program utilizing a curriculum, printed materials, and an educational video developed by the Department of Public Health. The program is delivered by a contracted outside agency, and funded through the Department of Public Health.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Contracted Program, Health Services

Types:

Health Education

Bridging the Gap

Description

Alcoholics Anonymous is one of the most important self-help resources for alcoholic men and women. A very important first step for inmates being released into the community is attending the first meeting as soon as possible following release. Addiction Services staff in the institution utilize a toll-free telephone number to get information about the nearest AA meeting location, along with the name of a contact person. An AA member then will contact the inmate upon release and even provide transportation to a meeting.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction, Transition

Catholic Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Catholic Mass

Description

This is the weekly Catholic worship service.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Catholic Scripture Sharing Group

Description

This is a group sharing of bible readings for the day following the catholic liturgical calendar. Discussion of thoughts generated by readings as they apply to daily living.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

College Credit and Vocational Certification By Exam

Description

This program provides study opportunities for earning college credits and vocational certifications in 29 academic subject areas, as well as national vocational certification in Sanitation and Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). This program also offers credit by exam in 6 academic subject areas in cooperation with local community colleges.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education, Vocational Education

Community Outreach Program

Description

This program provides assistance with Public Service projects for the state, local governments and non-profit organizations. Projects include general cleaning, painting, stripping and waxing floors, office work and outside grounds work.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Community Work Group

Community Services Detail

Description

The Community Services Detail provides inmate labor to various state and local non-profit organizations. Examples of work performed are basic carpentry, painting, refinishing floors, grounds landscaping and maintenance. A cornerstone of the restorative justice concept, the community services detail provides enormous benefit to the community and to the inmate participants.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Community Work Group

Connecticut Dept. of Labor Apprenticeship Division

Description

This program provides assistance in locating jobs and positions to inmates with full or partial trade apprenticeships.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Connecticut Small Business Development Center

Description

This program provides information on starting a small business, as well as developing a business and marketing plan.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition, Vocational Education

CONNTAC-EOC (CT Talent Assistance Cooperative-Education Opportunity Center)

Description

Representatives from CONNTAC-EOC are provided with names of students to meet with while the student is still incarcerated. The representatives assist students with their post-secondary plans and financial aid.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Domestic Violence Group

Description

This group is designed for inmates who have committed a domestic violence offense. Successful completion of this program is a requirement for those inmates who enter into the department's community-based transitional supervision program for domestic violence offenders.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Domestic Violence, Family

Educational, Career Resources and Job Fairs

Description

These types of Fairs are conducted in the form of a professional conference for students. The educational staff invite a keynote speaker and students proceed to attend individual workshops on a variety of topics. The goal of these Fairs is to assist inmates with their transition plans before they return to the community.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, USD#1

Types:

Academic Education, Transition

Embracing Fatherhood

Description

Embracing Fatherhood is a program designed to assist incarcerated fathers in gaining awareness of the important role they play in the lives of their children. This awareness will enable participants to successfully embrace their roles as fathers and begin to build healthy lifestyles that will benefit both their children and them.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Volunteer Group

Types:

Family

Family Education & Parenting

Description

This program is designed to help inmates with children become responsible parents. Inmates have classes in parenting skills and in some cases read children's books into audio or video-cassettes to send home to their children. Components of the parenting skills classes include parenting from a distance, discipline techniques, and communicating with children.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, USD#1

Types:

Family

Freedom Calls

Description

A seven part curriculum focusing on principles and methodology for developing a positive mental attitude; creating a healthy vision for the future; Accepting personal responsibility; Goal setting and making a commitment; Building concentration; Overcoming failure. Understanding the importance of others and; Strategies for living successfully.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Facility Staff, Volunteer Services

Types:

Self Improvement, Transition

General Educational Development (GED)

Description

The GED is the primary program of instruction for students functioning above an eighth grade level who wish to earn a State of Connecticut high school diploma through the examination process. GED Tutors and volunteers assist Department teachers by helping inmates prepare for the GED Exam and/or by helping to teach basic language skills.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

HIV Counseling, Testing & Risk Reduction Education

Description

When inmates are tested for HIV, the department provides standardized counseling by Department of Public Health certified counselors before and after testing. Counseling components include what HIV and AIDS are, how to get it, how to avoid getting it, what it means to be HIV positive, how to take care of oneself if one is HIV positive, and help in dealing with the associated feelings.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

HIV Positive Support Group

Description

This group shall consist of a minimum of two HIV positive inmates. The purpose of the group shall be to help inmates adjust to their HIV positive status, improve adherence to their anti-viral medication and decrease any additional risks of HIV infection upon their release.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

HIV Support Services

Description

The Department demonstrates a collaborative approach in providing HIV support services to inmates in all facilities. A UCONN (Contracted) Health Services Team coordinates testing and counseling services; the Department's School District conducts classroom instruction about HIV; the Department's Addiction Services Unit Counselors provide HIV education and prevention counseling; a number of volunteers serve as "buddies" or sponsors; and Hartford's Community Partners in Action (CPA) receives funding from foundations, grants as well as support from the state's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to operate the "Beyond Fear" Program. Altogether the Department hosts a complete program that includes counseling, testing, education focus groups, videos, intervention strategies and is able to assist discharging inmates with need for such services as housing, medical treatment, food, clothing and transportation.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Health Services

Types:

Health Education

Intentional Skills Development

Description

This course examines values clarification, healthy choice making, conflict resolution, problem solving and action planning. It is open to anyone who wants to change a course of negative thinking and behavior and learn new skills to help prevent reincarceration. This program is held for 1 1/2 hours, two days a week, for ten weeks and is delivered by a contracted outside agency.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Volunteer Services

Types:

Self Improvement

Job Center

Description

The Job Center is designed to help inmates get and maintain a job after release. It does this by providing job readiness training, resume writing, and employment referrals. Specific jobs are located by the Job Center's computer connection to the Department of Labor's Connecticut Job Bank and by using the Department of Correction Job Bank.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Transition

Job Skills

Description

Offenders will face unique challenges in their attempt to obtain employment following release. This two-month course is designed to motivate and prepare offenders to find jobs. Among the topics it covers are when and how to disclose a criminal history and major obstacles offenders face when trying to obtain work.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Jumah

Description

Jumah is the weekly Muslim worship service.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Worship Services

Keyboarding

Description

This program teaches inmates the fundamentals of keyboarding. This basic program provides a foundation to further training in the use of computers. This class is offered in eight-week blocks meeting four days per week.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Learning How to Live

Description

This is a five-week program that meets for an hour and a half each week. The program is based on the video "Learning How to Live by Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson". The main focus is for participants to identify dysfunctional behavior and beliefs in their own lives so they can change the dysfunction in their lives. Self-worth is also examined because it contributes to many of the dysfunctional beliefs and attitudes. Homework is given at each group, and participants must attend all 5 groups to receive a certificate.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Self Improvement

Literacy Volunteers of America

Description

An active group of community volunteers, as well as inmate volunteers, contribute hundreds of hours to combat illiteracy for inmates in all of the facilities. Basic reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills are stressed.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1, Volunteer Services

Types:

Academic Education

Master Student

Description

Academic study skills are offered in the areas of text reading, time management, test taking, composition, and memory. Career planning and mentoring also form part of the instruction.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Narcotics Anonymous

Description

Narcotics Anonymous is a twelve-step fellowship of addicts helping addicts to recover from the disease of addiction. Meetings, in a variety of formats (Step Meetings, Speaker, Speaker/Discussion, etc.), are held on a weekly basis. The meetings are usually conducted by outside volunteers who share their story of addiction and recovery. Addiction Services staff coordinate the meetings and provide oversight for the program.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Addiction

Parenting Class

Description

This parenting class explores parenting skills, touching on a variety of subjects. It utilizes guest speakers, videos, classroom activities and written assignments.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Volunteer Services

Types:

Family

Post-Secondary Programs

Description

College and Correspondence Courses are offered in an effort to encourage or prepare students for ongoing educational opportunities (Students pay a tuition and book fee for college courses). One of the main goals is to be able to provide well-behaved inmates an opportunity to be engaged in self-development.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Pre-Release Program

Description

This ongoing group offers information on community support groups and resources to assist offenders in successfully reintegrating into the community.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Transition

Principles of Christian Manhood

Description

Using examples of great men of God, principles of godliness are extrapolated by the leader to apply to personal faith walk. It meets weekly.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Prison Fellowship Group

Description

This group uses material from the Prison Fellowship Weekly Lesson Plan Guide and the Bible. It meets weekly.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Bible Study

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Bible Study (Spanish)

Description

Biblical readings are reviewed with Spanish inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Rap Group

Description

This is an open-ended question/answer type of group which focuses on "problem solving" in the application of Christian principles in a prison setting.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Protestant Service

Description

This is the weekly Protestant worship service.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Worship Services

Protestant Service (Spanish)

Description

This is the weekly Protestant worship service conducted in Spanish.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Worship Services

Protestant Support Group

Description

A therapeutic discussion session which focuses on peer support for a Christian lifestyle within the prison environment.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Read to Your Children

Description

This program is designed to foster a bond between a child and his/her incarcerated parent. USD#1 creates and maintains a collection of children's books. Inmates can select from a book and read to their child during regular visiting hours. In some cases, inmates enrolled in school can read a book and be videotaped and then send the tape and book to the child.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Family

Religious Library

Description

This is a chaplain-guided use of written religious material such as: Catholic periodicals, daily reflective monthlies, newspapers and books with religious themes.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Types:

Religious

Resource Center

Description

This center provides inmates with the resources for their reintegration into the community.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Transition

Special Education and Pupil Services

Description

The special education teachers, pupil services specialists (School Psychologists, School Counselors, School Social Workers), and the associated clerical and durational staff provide services to students with handicapping conditions which interfere with their ability to participate in school. These services are mandated by federal (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997) and state (Connecticut General Statutes 10-76) statute. Special education services encompass a broad array of activities including assessment, counseling, transition planning, and both the direct and indirect (e.g. consultation) services of the special education teachers and pupil services staff. Student programs are designed according to the individual needs of each student with disabilities and are specified in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP.)

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Strive Program

Description

STRIVE is a program operated by a number not-for-profit affiliates. Its main goal is to help people get and keep jobs. STRIVE emphasizes developing the kinds of attitudes that are necessary to get and keep a job. It actively assists in job placement for graduates and offers two-year long-term post placement support to help its graduates with whatever problem that threatens their continued success. In this collaborative effort, STRIVE and the Department of Correction staff enrolls the inmates in an intensive three-week program, to begin upon discharge from the facility. The objective of this collaborative program is to keep the participants from returning to the Department of Correction by helping them change their attitude, get a job, and keep the job.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Transition

Substance Abuse Relapse Prevention

Description

This is an ongoing program that meets for one hour a week. It is facilitated by Addiction Services staff and addresses issues of substance abuse relapse.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Types:

Addiction

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Description

TESOL is an instructional program for students whose primary language is not English. TESOL instruction helps students to speak, read and write English or assists them in developing the language skills necessary for overall academic and vocational progress.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education

Tech Prep Program

Description

This is a program that offers opportunities for high school students to earn college credits through work with Community Colleges and USD#1 teachers.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Technical Assistants and Clerk Training

Description

Instruction is designed to provide entry-level skill training in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheets, and basic graphic design. Students also learn team-building skills for school, work, and life enrichment.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

The Resettlement Program

Description

The Resettlement Program is a program of Community Partners in Action, which provides long-term case management services to inmates six months prior to release and then up to six months follow-up services in the community. The goal of the program is to assist offenders prepare for and accomplish a successful transition back into the community. The targeted population for the program is those high-risk inmates who have a multitude of issues which include but are not limited to the following: a history of incarceration, substance abuse, lack of life skills and/or education, unstable employment record, lack of housing upon release, etc. The program acts as a bridge connecting inmates to those community based agencies that are instrumental in securing appropriate housing, treatment, employment, education, food, clothing and other life necessities. The ultimate goal is to help reduce the recidivism rate by assisting ex-offenders establish a crime-free life for themselves and their family.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Facility Staff

Types:

Transition

Thinking for a Change

Description

This cognitive behavior program was developed by the National Institute of Corrections. It is designed to help inmates change the way they think, help inmates develop improved social skills, and help inmates learn problem-solving skills. Research links successful completion of such programs to reduced recidivism.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Self Improvement, Youth CDU

Thinking For Good

Description

Thinking for Good is designed to directly address specific thoughts, attitudes and beliefs typically held by offenders, addicts and criminals who demonstrate anti-social behaviors.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Types:

Self Improvement

Transition/School to Work

Description

The Transition/School to Work program's mission is to place participating students in employment and/or vocational/educational programs and to provide each student with a needs-based transition plan prior to his/her release to maximize potential for successful re-entry into society. School-based and work-based learning opportunities are provided through job and resource fairs, employment skills curriculum, sessions with transition counselors and meetings with a transition coordinator. A USD#1 brochure describing this program is available.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC)

Description

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC) is a program of Community Partners in Action which provides discharge planning for inmates with HIV/AIDS. TLC serves every prison and jail in the state, and works with clients returning to every region of the state. TLC case managers meet clients' emergency needs upon release, and connect them with services in their local communities for continuing care and assistance.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Health Services

Types:

Health Education, Transition

V.O.I.C.E.S. (Victim Offender Institutional Correctional Educational Services)

Description

Volunteers support the Department's V.O.I.C.E.S. Program. It is designed to broaden inmates' understanding and sensitivity to the impact of their crime on others.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Victim Services, Volunteer Services

Types:

Domestic Violence, Victim

Victim-Offender Dialogue

Description

For a variety of reasons, it is sometimes helpful for victims to meet with offenders. The department's Victim Services Unit evaluates and when appropriate facilitates this dialogue. The process is designed to achieve the objectives of restorative justice, healing the victim, and confronting and holding the offender accountable. Although this process can often be very helpful to the inmate, all such dialogues are initiated at the request of victims.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Victim Services

Types:

Domestic Violence, Victim

Word for Windows

Description

This program provides a working knowledge of computer word processing concepts for entry level employment. This course forms part of the BCI Tech Prep Program with Manchester Community College. Students are awarded three college credits upon successful completion of the course.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Vocational Education

Youth Offender Program

Description

Through the use of federal funds, post-secondary education and transition services are provided to "youth offenders" up to the age of 26 who are eligible for parole or release within five years. A transition counselor provides assistance and counseling to encourage participants to acquire functional literacy as well as life/job skills while in prison. Students participate in post-secondary classes, complete portfolios, and develop transition plans and placement.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Academic Education, Vocational Education

Youthful Offender Transition Counseling and College Courses

Description

In this program career resource training and job placement assistance are offered to youthful offenders. College course programming is provided through the local community college.

Facility:

Bergin CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Types:

Transition